

THE INSIDE OF A CONVENTION

(From the New Republic)

Modern American politics has seldom offered a more complete example of the subversion of the ideals of Democratic government than has just been afforded by the New York State Republican Convention. The Convention, officially labelled as "unofficial," was of course nothing of the kind. In intent and in effect it tore into shreds the far-famed primary law, but the voting sheep who will go to the polls in April will be no more blindly subservient to the will of the machine leaders than were the majority of the 832 delegates who gathered to the "unofficial" convention in Carnegie Hall.

From the outset there was but one question at issue, and about 800 of the delegates had as much to do with the settling of that question as the Rajah of Swat. The question was decided by a handful of men who gathered in a stuffy little room in the headquarters of the Republican State Committee, and another handful who held a secret conclave in the Republican Club. The question was simply this: was William Barnes, Jr., to maintain his grip on the party machinery in the State, or was control to pass to Governor Charles S. Whitman? This major issue involved several others of more or less importance, such as Mr. Barnes' determination to crush any incipient sentiment in favor of Theodore Roosevelt, and Governor Whitman's feverish efforts to prevent a complete blight descending on his Presidential aspirations; but the one big thing at stake was the personal fortunes of Mr. Barnes.

In the tobacco-laden atmosphere of the state committee rooms about twenty political reporters lounged on the morning of the decisive day. They occupied a strategic position between the little room where the fate of the delegates to the national convention was being decided, and that other room where a committee on resolutions was trying to decide whether Governor Whitman should be slain forthright or just politically mutilated. The majority of the twenty reporters were veterans of many political conventions and they shared no illusions. About noon a younger and less sophisticated member rushed in with the news that the convention had been called to order without waiting for the result of

slant: "The convention was called to order last night in the Lotos Club and is concluding its session right here. As soon as this gang has decided how best to carry out Brother Barnes' orders we will all go up to Carnegie Hall and let the free and independent voter in on the secret."

The reporter knew what he was talking about. The majority of the delegates who sat by the hundred in

Carnegie Hall imagining they were taking part in the solemn deliberations of a great party in a great state were in fact mere rubber stamps, who in due time would, and did endorse the decisions of the handful in the two little rooms without even a clear idea of what they were endorsing. Every newspaper office in New York knew a week before the convention opened just about what would be done. There was some difference of opinion as to the amount of strength Governor Whitman could muster and to what extent he was to be mangled by the Barnes machine, but there was never any doubt as to the purpose and meaning of the convention.

Mr. Barnes laid his plans with all the skill in practical politics for which he is noted. The first step, taken far in advance, was to have the representation to the convention based on senatorial districts instead of congressional districts. The greater the number of districts the smoother the operation of the machine. From each of the fifty-one senatorial districts one delegate was selected to sit on the committee on resolutions and one on the committee on national delegates. These two committees constituted the real convention and were in turn governed by sub-committees of seven. When the machine was thoroughly oiled Mr. Barnes moved into action. "I am in complete control of the situation," he announced with that indifference to the niceties of political hypocrisy which has always characterized him.

There was one slight hitch at the outset. Elihu Root, Mr. Barnes' stalking-horse to prevent any chance of an instructed delegation for either Hughes or Whitman, did an almost incredible thing. In his "keynote" speech he had had the horrid stupidity to introduce Roosevelt's name in a manner that could not be construed as other than complimentary. Fortunately this outrage was discovered in time, and the amenable Mr. Root carefully skipped the passage when he came to deliver his exordium. As far as the speech itself went, it certainly left the delegates and the audience in the galleries unmoved. It is true that one of the delegates, a German saloon keeper from Brooklyn, objected strenuously if privately to the criticism of Germany's dealings with Belgium, but the majority remained listless before the wrongs of Belgium, the crimes of Germany and the Democrats, and refused to get excited even over the tariff. Every time honored trick to arouse enthusiasm failed. Mr. Root came to his proper words, halted at moments; the venerable with the white beard, waved his arms and exercised his shrill falsetto promptly on his cue; the platform was quick to give leads to the pit; and all to no avail.

The answer to the apathy which was supplied by the press table was: "They don't want Root." The corollary, "Whom do they want?" was not so easy to answer, but there was no question as to the one name that

would have smashed that apathy to fragments. From the time when the first carload of delegates lined up at Baltimore bar there was one name on every lip, a name mentioned with hate, fear, admiration, wonder, but never with indifference—Theodore Roosevelt. Barnes and his lieutenants determined that that name should never be mentioned except in whispers, and they had their way; but they could not prevent the shadow of Roosevelt from lying heavy on the convention.

The net result of the convention to participants and impartial observers was disappointment. The popular interpretation of the platform adopted was that the Republican party condemned President Wilson for not going to war with Germany; yet everybody knew that the men who framed the platform had as much idea of declaring war on Germany as they had of declaring war on Timbuctoo. The truth is that the men who engineered the convention were about as much interested in national problems, from any point of view of statesmanship, as they were in the transit of Venus, and knew about as much of one as of the other. They were petty politicians, playing a petty game in a petty way, and they have merely emphasized the unanswered question, what have the Republicans as a party to offer as an alternative to the policies of Wilson?

ROBERT WARD.

To S. S. Workers

All Sunday School workers in St. Francois county are invited to attend the Efficiency Conference which will be held in the Union Church, Bismarck, on Tuesday, March 28th. The meeting commences at 2 p. m. on the date given and will close the same day at 9 p. m. The speakers will be the well known Sunday School experts, Miss H. Beard and Herman Bowman, both of St. Louis. All who are interested in Sunday School extension should seize this opportunity of improvement. Hospitality is assured for those who cannot return by the late trains.

CHARLES W. ANDERSON.

DO YOU KNOW THAT—

There is no Federal institution in the continental United States for the reception and care of lepers? Plague is a disease of rodents? Malaria is spread by a special mosquito? House screening is a good disease preventive? Fingers, flies and food spread typhoid fever? Pellagra may be prevented or cured by proper diet? The United States Public Health Service believes that the common towel spreads trachoma, a disease of the eyes? Children from sanitary homes advance more rapidly in school than those from dirty premises?

The Man and the Hour is at Hand

Mr. Editor: I have just read Mr. Robert Holmes' last statement concerning the financial transactions and manipulations of the Doe Run and St. Joe Lead Companies. If Mr. Holmes' statements and allegations are true (and we believe they are) there is certainly something "rotten in Denmark" with reference to the management of these companies. Judging from the stand taken by Mr. Holmes, ordinary business self-respect will not per mit him longer to defer to the arrogant assumptions of those whose financial policies leaves the treasury of those companies unarmed, unguarded and unpicketed. After the rank incompetence by the present management of those companies that they should still insist on holding the reins of authority is the very impudence of arrogant audacity. Mr. Holmes now insists that the affairs of those companies of which he is a large stockholder, be conducted according to the ordinary rules of business and in the interest of ALL the stockholders of said companies.

In spite of Confucius and Buddha, of Socrates in prison, of Jesus of Nazareth on the cross, power is still arrogant, greed is still impudent and talent is still selfish.

Robert Holmes stands as the champion of the stockholders of those two companies. Stands as it were upon the mountain, cries aloud and spares not.

The Roman Ambassador stood before the Parthian Senate and said: "I hold peace and war in the folds of my toga. Which shall I shake out to you?" The Carthaginians cried, "war, war," and they were swept from the earth.

Missouri and the West has given to these companies a man sprung from Missouri soil, inspired by the highest motives, loved by his neighbors and respected by all who know him. He is, by ancestry, birth, education and experience, instinctively and distinctively a Missourian, the very flower of the "show me" State's young business men.

The hour has come, the man has been found worthy and willing to stand by the stockholders of those two companies; he is a typical product of our Western civilization.

Strength be to the arm of this courageous and gifted young Joshua, who has commanded the sun to stand still while he fights the battles of right and justice.

WORKER.

ACID SOILS

Some plants do not grow on acid or neutral soils as well as on alkaline soils, while some plants prefer acid soils. Sour soils occur more often in humid than in arid regions. They also occur more frequently in poorly drained than in well drained places. Acidity may be caused by free acids, or may be due to lack of bases. This last ought to be called a neutral soil but since plants usually grow equally well on acid and poor soil, we use but the one term—acid soil.

A number of things will cause a soil to become acid. Large amounts of lime are removed in the drainage water. The decay of organic matter causes much carbon dioxide and nitric acid to be formed. Growing plants recover the nitric acid but the carbon dioxide and other bases are largely lost. In our latitude the decay of organic matter continues nearly throughout the entire year. As this decay is more rapid near the surface, we find the surface soil more sour than the sub-soil.

Growing plants use more lime and other bases than they do acids. In ordinary farming where the entire crop is removed, this is quite a factor in forming acid soils, plowing under of green manure, while not changing the total amount of acid or basic products in the soil, does, for a time, make soils more sour by the union of the organic acids with such basic material as was already present in the soil.

The continued use of such fertilizers as acid phosphate and ammonium sulphate, add to the acidity of the soil. Soils derived from limestone are not usually acid, but many such soils and soils underlain by limestone are often benefited by the use of lime.

In a future article we will discuss the plants adapted to both acid and alkaline soils.

SETH BARCOCK.

A Special Specific Against Colds

The nearest thing to a specific against colds is a sleeping porch or open bed room and a cold sponge bath every morning when you first get up. Even then, you will occasionally take a cold, especially when colds are epidemic, and when you do you will find Chamberlain's Cough Remedy a great help in enabling you to get rid of it. Try it. Obtainable everywhere. (adv.)

ARKANSAS

For Sale—5,000 acres fine Saline River Valley farm land none more than 3.1-2 miles from railroad, located 35 miles from Little Rock on the main line of the Iron Mountain R. R. adjoining \$15,000 acres that sold at \$10 to \$25 per acre. Your choice at the low price of \$6 to \$12 per acre on terms to meet your pocketbook.

For Trade—2,000 acres of improved land, same location at \$25 and \$30 per acre. Give full description of your property, legal numbers, stating amount of mortgage and interest first letter. Write for literature.

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641 Reserve Bank Building,
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MR. HUGH PORTER

Teacher of Violin

Schubert School of Music

Farmington, Missouri

TRAVELER'S GUIDE.

To reach Farmington you can use either one of the following routes:

From the North.

(Via St. Louis.)

M. R. & B. T. Ry.—Leave St. Louis at 7:32 a. m. and 3:55 p. m., arriving at Farmington over electric railway from Flat River at 11:41 a. m. and 7:56 p. m.

Iron Mountain—Leave St. Louis at 7:32 or 9:05 a. m., arriving at Farmington over the electric railway from DeLassus at 12:35 p. m.

From the South.

Iron Mountain via Bismarck and DeLassus—Arrive at Farmington over electric railway at 12:35 p. m.

Belmont Branch of Iron Mountain—Arrive at Farmington over electric railway from DeLassus at 2:27 p. m.

Cape Girardeau Northern—Arrive at Farmington at 8:10 p. m. from Cape Girardeau and intermediate points. Going south the train leaves Farmington at 7:00 a. m. Both trains make connection with Frisco trains at Perryville Junction.

To Reach St. Louis.

You can go over either of the roads at the following hours:

M. R. & B. T.—Leave Farmington over electric railway to Flat River at 5:55 a. m. and 12:28 p. m., arriving in St. Louis at 10:05 a. m. and 6:27 p. m. Fare from Farmington, \$1.66. Round trip, \$3.22. (if passenger can go and return same day, the round trip rate is \$3.22).

Iron Mountain—Leave Farmington over electric railway to DeLassus at 1:45 p. m., arriving in St. Louis at 6:27 p. m. Fare for one way from Farmington \$1.90; round trip, \$3.80.

ST. FRANCOIS COUNTY RY. CO.

Time Table (Condensed.)

Between Farmington and Flat River.

Lv. Farmington.	Arr. Flat River.
5:55 a. m.	6:29 a. m.
7:28 a. m.	8:04 a. m.
8:58 a. m.	9:34 a. m.
10:17 a. m.	10:53 a. m.
2:28 p. m.	3:01 p. m.
4:54 p. m.	5:30 p. m.
6:34 p. m.	7:10 p. m.

Lv. Flat River Arr. Farmington

6:37 a. m.	7:13 a. m.
8:06 a. m.	8:42 a. m.
9:37 a. m.	10:13 a. m.
11:05 a. m.	11:41 a. m.
3:55 p. m.	4:31 p. m.
6:38 p. m.	6:14 p. m.
7:20 p. m.	7:56 p. m.

Between Farmington and Lead Belt.

Local Service between Farmington and Leadwood, Bonne Terre, Elvins and intermediate points: Cars leaving Farmington at 5:55 and 8:58 a. m. and 4:54 p. m. make direct connections with M. R. & B. T. Ry. at Flat River for Bonne Terre and Leadwood and intermediate points.

Cars leaving Farmington at 7:28 and 10:17 a. m. and 2:28 and 4:54 p. m., make direct connections with the M. R. & B. T. Ry., at Flat River for Elvins and intermediate points.

All M. R. & B. T. Ry. trains make direct connections at Flat River with electric cars for Farmington and intermediate points.

Between Farmington and DeLassus.

Lv. Farmington.	Arr. DeLassus.
11:41 a. m.	12:20 p. m.
1:45 p. m.	1:57 p. m.
Lv. DeLassus.	Arr. Farmington
12:35 p. m.	12:47 p. m.

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Many diseases of childhood and youth are due to faulty diet—a diet that restricts the amount of needed mineral salts, the lack of which, as your family physician can tell you, often leads to rickets and other diseases of mal-nutrition.

Grape-Nuts, made of whole wheat and malted barley is rich in these vital mineral elements so necessary to health.

This food tastes good, is easily digested, and many letters from parents, after trial, testify

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Containing the essential mineral salts and the vitamins necessary for good health.

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"I had become greatly run down and my nerves were in terrible condition. I had frequent headaches and became very weak and was unable to do anything. I bought a bottle of Dr. Miles' Nerve. I soon began to feel better, my nerves were quieted, I recovered my strength, and have since recommended Dr. Miles' Nerve to many of my friends who have used it with satisfactory results."
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